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## **\*Press Release\***

### **Delaware Inmates Help DNREC Stock Local Creek with Trophy-Sized Trout *Fishermen to Benefit -Opening Day Tomorrow***



NEWARK – There was something fishy about a group of Delaware inmates that took part today in a local community service project. The inmates, from the Central Violation of Probation Center near Smyrna, helped the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) stock a local creek with thousands of trout.

The inmates and DNREC stocked White Clay Creek in Newark with 2,500 rainbow and brown trout; including 500 trophy-sized fish. The timing of the stocking is perfect for local fishermen. Tomorrow is opening day for trout season in New Castle County.

“The work the inmates are doing for us is invaluable,” said Rob Hossler, a DNREC Fish & Wildlife Regional Manager. “I just don’t have the manpower to do the job in as timely and efficient a manner as I can with the help of the offenders.”

This year, DNREC will stock a total of 34,000 fish in several creeks and ponds statewide during a ten-day stocking program. Inmates will assist during seven of these stockings. Already, more than 14,000 fish are in local waters.

The stockings are vital to providing local fishermen with a diverse and unique fishing experience. Delaware waterways can support trout populations only for a short time every spring because of water temperatures. Trout cannot survive in waters above 75 degrees. As a result, there are no breeding trout populations in Delaware.

Without the stockings, local sportsmen would not have an opportunity to fish for trout in the state. DNREC purchases the trout from commercial fisheries with proceeds from the purchase of trout stamps. (A freshwater fishing license and special trout stamp are required for trout fishing in Delaware.)

The inmates taking part in the community service project are housed at the Central Violation of Probation Center (CVOP).

Community service projects instill in inmates good work ethics and disciplines. Some projects also teach inmates a skill that can be transferred back to the community once they're released from custody. Additionally, community service allows the offender to feel like a contributing member of society.

"We are happy to assist communities and other state agencies with their needs," said CVOP Center Deputy Warden Jim Hutchins. "It is gratifying to know that the enjoyment some local fishermen will get out of catching a trophy-sized trout is due to the work done by CVOP offenders."

This fiscal year, DOC inmates are expected to perform more than 150,000 hours of community service. Inmates participate in projects that benefit cities and towns, churches, American Legions, senior and recreation centers and schools.